REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 20-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13 and 20-22 have been amended for consistency. Claims 14-19 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 23-28 have been submitted to further describe the invention. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments, new claims, and amendments herein.

I.   The Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 1-13 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

The claims have been amended to replace the term "Chinese kaolin" with "kaolin" to address the indefiniteness rejection. The scope of the claims has not been narrowed as a result of the amendment.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to be dependent on claim 1. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to be dependent on claim 20.

New independent claim 23 is similar to claim 1, except that various properties of the kaolin, *i.e.*, high carbon content and a higher propensity to release alumina upon heating are explicitly described. These properties are relative to commonly reported run-of-the-mill physical characteristics of kaolin mined in Middle Georgia (USA). The properties explicitly described are intended to describe the comparative differences between kaolin mined in Middle Georgia (USA) and kaolin mined in the country of China with borders defined in the year 2003. Support exists on page 4, line 6 of the specification.

II.   Election to Prosecute Claims 1-13 and 20-22

During a telephone conversation between the Examiner and the below-signed representative on or about December 13, 2004 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of claims 1-13 and 20-22. The

provisional election is hereby affirmed in this reply. Accordingly, claims 14-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 20-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-13 and 20-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness with regard to the term "Chinese kaolin." For simplicity and brevity, the term "Chinese kaolin" has been amended to "kaolin" in all claims. It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would readily understand the metes and bounds of the term kaolin.

IV. Rejection of Claims 20-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hen *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,136,086). Hen *et al* discloses Optiwhite, also known as kaolin clay, which has an oil absorption of 85 and a brightness of 91.

To establish anticipation, each and every claim feature must be disclosed in a single cited art document. Claim 20 requires kaolin made in accordance with the method of claim 1, which involves a double pulverization process. Hen *et al* fails to disclose the method of claim 1, and in particular a double pulverization process to provide kaolin. The double pulverization process provides kaolin having unique physical properties. Since Hen *et al* does not disclose all of the claimed features, Hen *et al* cannot anticipate claims 20-22.

V. Conclusion

The present application is believed to be condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.
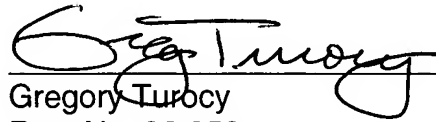
VI. Petition for Extension of Time

A request for a two month extension of time is hereby made. A Credit Card charge form is enclosed herewith to pay the petition fees.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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